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Blagojevich, Governor  
State Police  
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# Law Enforcement Accreditation

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Illinois State Police

## Law Enforcement Accreditation

The **Illinois State Police** has again demonstrated that it is a model agency for the future. By becoming the first state police agency to be accredited by the prestigious Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the **Illinois State Police** has shown that it is on the leading edge of law enforcement in the United States.

The accreditation concept and practice is not a new one. For many years, hospitals, universities and other professional fields have undergone accreditation to prove compliance with a set of professional standards. Accreditation, however, is relatively new to the law enforcement field. The **Illinois State Police** made a commitment to be the first state police agency in the nation to become accredited. Successful accreditation makes a statement to law enforcement colleagues and other professionals, alike, that the **Illinois State Police** meets the very highest of standards. When the agency became accredited in 1986 it was able to document the fact that it stands as one of the finest police agencies in the country. This standard of excellence was demonstrated in 1991, 1996, 2001, and again in 2004, when the **Illinois State Police** was the first state police agency in the nation to achieve and maintain reaccredited status.

The **Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.**, is an international program which was formed in 1979 and is currently sponsored by the **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)**, the **National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)**, the **National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)**, and the **Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)**. This commission has developed a comprehensive set of written standards covering every aspect of law enforcement policies, procedures, practices and operations. These standards were designed to:

- Increase law enforcement agency capabilities to prevent and control crime
- Increase agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services
- Increase cooperation with other law enforcement agencies
- Increase employee and citizen confidence in the goals, objectives, policies and practices of the accredited agencies



# The Accreditation Process

There are five (5) phases in the accreditation process.

## ***Phase I:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Application***

This phase logically begins when the agency makes written application to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

## ***Phase II:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Agency Profile Questionnaire***

Following application, the Commission solicits valuable information from the agency in the form of a questionnaire. This questionnaire provides details regarding the agency's size, responsibilities and functions, facilities, crime statistics, etc. From the completed questionnaire, the Commission determines how many and which of the professional standards must be met by the agency to be accredited.

## ***Phase III:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Self-Assessment***

Once the Commission has determined the standards with which the agency must comply, the agency is provided a listing of these standards. Upon review of these standards, the agency begins an in-depth comprehensive analysis of its own policies, procedures, and day to day operations. This in-house review provides the agency with a healthy examination of its own entire operation and helps to determine whether the agency can comply with the standards.

## ***Phase IV:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***On-Site Assessment***

After the agency is satisfied that it has achieved compliance with the applicable standards, it notifies the Commission. The Commission then identifies an outside team of assessors or auditors, allows the agency to examine the team to avoid any conflict of interest, and then sends the assessors to the agency. The assessors conduct an extensive review of the agency's documented proofs of compliance to determine if the agency complies with each of the standards.

## ***Phase V:***

### ***Commission Review and Decision***

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The on-site team submits a written report to the Commission. Based on this report, the Commission either grants full accreditation to the agency or defers accreditation status. In the event that accreditation is deferred, the agency is notified of the necessary steps to gain accreditation.

#### **Benefits of Law Enforcement Accreditation**

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#### ***Accreditation Benefits for the Agency's Chief Executive Officer and the Agency's Command Staff***

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1. Accreditation requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations and administration which includes:
  - Establishment of agency goals and objectives, with provision for periodic updating
  - Reevaluating of how agency resources are being utilized—in accord with agency goals, objectives, and mission assignments
  - Reevaluation of agency policies and procedures especially as documented in the agency's written directive system
  - Allowing the agency an opportunity to correct deficiencies before they become public problems
2. The accreditation standards provide neutral guidelines for developing strong budget justifications – especially for personnel and their allocation across functions and activities.
3. The accreditation standards provide norms against which agency performance can be measured and monitored over time.
4. Accreditation provides the agency with a continuing flow of information about exemplary policies, procedures, and projects as distributed by the Commission.
5. Accreditation provides the agency an opportunity to participate in the development of new and revised standards.

6. Accreditation provides recognition that the agency's managerial and operational policies and procedures are in accord with a body of nation-wide standards – and that the agency has made a concerted effort to obtain professional status.

### ***— Accreditation Benefits for All Other Members of the Agency Including Sworn and Civilian Employees —***

1. Accreditation assures that agency policies and procedures are in written form and are available to all agency personnel.
2. Accreditation assures agency personnel that every aspect of its personnel system is in accord with a nationwide standard and that it is both fair and equitable.
3. Accreditation enhances the morale of agency personnel by building the confidence of employees in the effectiveness and efficiency of their own agency.

### ***— Accreditation Benefits for Neighboring Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Agencies —***

1. Accreditation promotes relationships with other law enforcement agencies, as well as prosecutors, courts, correctional agencies, and state and local governmental officials.
2. Accreditation requires the establishment of mutual aid agreements between law enforcement agencies. Such agreements are in writing and well understood by all parties.
3. Accreditation promotes standardization of operational policies—thereby increasing efficiency in handling calls for assistance, referrals, and joint investigations.
4. Accreditation requires participation in statewide radio, fingerprint, criminal information and crime reporting systems.

### ***Accreditation Benefits for State, County, and Local Governments and***

### ***— Their Elected Leaders and Appointed Managers and Administrators —***

1. Accreditation provides assurance that a governmental unit's law enforcement agency is delivering a high level of service to citizens in the agency's service area.



2. Accreditation provides objective measures in justifying decisions relating to budget requests and personnel policies.
3. Accreditation reduces the likelihood of vicarious liability suits against the agency.
4. Accreditation can reduce the cost of liability insurance for the agency.

### ***Accreditation Benefits for Citizens in the Agency's Service Area***

1. Accreditation demonstrates the commitment of the agency to professionalism in terms of adherence to a body of international standards.
2. Accreditation enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency's role as well as its goals and objectives.
3. Accreditation assures the community that its law enforcement agency is committed to the provision of services of the highest quality and that its policies and procedures are effective and responsive on the one hand, and fair and equitable on the other.
4. Accreditation commits the agency to a broad range of programs of direct benefit to the public (e.g., community crime prevention) as well as programs to cope with man-made or natural disasters.
5. Accreditation promotes community cooperation and understanding.

### **For more information write or call:**

The Commission on Accreditation for  
Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.  
10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
1-800-368-3757  
[www.calea](http://www.calea)

### **Or Contact:**

Accreditation Manager  
Illinois State Police  
500 Iles Park Place, Suite 100  
Springfield, Illinois 62703-2982  
(217) 524-5886  
<http://www.state.il.us/isp/>

Dear Illinois Citizen:

The Illinois State Police voluntarily undergoes the intensive scrutiny and peer review required by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies in order to document to the citizens of the State of Illinois that their state police are among the finest in the nation. The high standards under which the agency operates are proven through the accreditation and reaccreditation process.

The ongoing reaccreditation process continues to demonstrate to Illinois citizens that the Illinois State Police maintains compliance with the professional standards called for by the law enforcement community and profession.

By becoming the first state police agency to be accredited, and by maintaining that accreditation, the Illinois State Police is proving that the trust of the citizens of Illinois is well-founded. The Illinois State Police is continuing to live up to its motto of "Integrity, Service and Pride."

Sincerely,

Larry G. Trent  
Director  
Illinois State Police





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